

Yellow

Site:	Syntex-Verona
ID #:	MOD007452154
Break:	7.4
Other:	Incineration
RAI	6/3/88



40030027  
SUPERFUND RECORDS

JUN 03 1988

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Syntex, Verona/Denney MIS  
FROM: Glenn Curtis, SPFD/REMD *GMC*  
TO: File

During the day on Wednesday, June 1, 1988, I spoke with Ralph Hazel and Joe Tichansky - Envirospense site manager at the MIS, Gary Kepko and Glen Davis - Syntex at Verona and Bob Williams - Syntex in Springfield. The following information was gained during these conversations.

MIS

The incinerator is currently down, it went down Tuesday afternoon after a water pump went out. A repair pump was located, but did not fit. A replacement was to be delivered Wednesday morning. During this down time, solids "balled up" in the system, subsequently requiring removal. In addition, various piping, a corroded valve and honeycomb packing in the electrostatic precipitator are being replaced, repaired and/or cleaned out. This process may take one to two days minimum plus the additional necessary heat-up time.

Ralph explained the four incinerator down times experienced at the MIS since May 7. These are described on the attached page. The responsibility for these down times may be subject to dispute by Syntex.

Verona

Two loads of excavated soils were delivered to the MIS on Wednesday, June 1, 1988. Approximately 500 cubic yards (bank-compacted) have been excavated; 150 cubic yards now remain in storage at the MIS.

Bob Williams stated that part of the results had been received. They did not look encouraging. However, not enough data had been received to allow them to accurately project new volumes to be excavated. Gary Kepko seemed more firm in his

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projections. Gary stated that Syntex had failed to confirm clean areas to the north, south, east or west of the main excavation. The south and east samples have currently come back greater than 20 ppb. West perimeter sample results have not been received, however Gary is skeptical. Purple/maroon-colored material in the main area (in the middle) has been visibly removed with a shovel. In general, Syntex is proceeding with very conservative excavation efforts, slowly taking minimal volumes per lift.

Bob also stated that Syntex needs actual costs for their internal audit team to review before they will contribute more funds. I stated that even in light of the priority of this project, contractor costs better than a week old at best or using \$23k per day may be the best that could be delivered. I told Bob that June 8-9 appeared to be a likely shut-down time. I sensed from Bob that Syntex would let the incinerator shut down in light of unsettled disputes over the described down times and incinerator contractor expenditures.

### Incinerator Down Times

#### 1. May 19-22

Solids had previously built up in venturi throat area of the transition piece at the exit of the secondary. During solids removal, several of the spray nozzles (four units with three nozzles each, spray calcium hydroxide water on acidic gases to neutralize and cool) were replaced and their spray distribution rearranged. The current arrangement appears to be operating well.

Bob Sawyer, prior to this down time, aimed one of the spray nozzles to spray on an area of the transition piece which appeared to be expanded and too hot. This rearrangement may have caused solids build up in the area and promoted the stated down time. Dave Norris is preparing a report, on behalf of Syntex, to identify the potential cause of the down time and to assert responsibility.

#### 2. May 29

Sunday night the shredder support collapsed due to an overload. A Durbin employee had placed the conveyor feed system on automatic, feeding material at an uncontrolled rate for reportedly several minutes. The conveyor fed material which got jammed in the shredder. The steel support subsequently collapsed. A new support piece was built in Springfield, delivered and placed in operation.

#### 3. May 30, down 12 hours

One of the three generators, which was making a faulty bearing-type noise, was taken out of service. Upon inspection, metal shavings were observed in the crankcase oil. The incinerator had to be shut down to change to the spare generator. A third replacement generator is being delivered to the site.

#### 4. May 31

Mid-afternoon on Tuesday, a water pump went out in the incinerator cooling system. As previously described, the system was taken down for maintenance and repair.